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Message Text

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73
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SUBJ: NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION PARTY CHAIRMAN INTERVIEW

1. SUMMARY: IN FIRST MAJOR PUBLIC STATEMENT SINCE RECENT FOUNDING OF RIGHTWING PARTY, PETER GAROUFALIAS MADE FORTH-RIGHT BID FOR SUPPORT FROM NATIONALIST GREEKS CONCERNED BY CARAMANLIS' OPENING TO LEFT AND WHO VIEW MAVROS AS "BUMBLING" IN HANDLING GREEK NATIONAL INTERESTS AS THEY RELATE TO NATO, CYPRUS, AND SOVIET UNION. HE ALSO SOUGHT MILITARY SUPPORT IN HIS ELECTORAL BID BY ADVOCATING BETTER EQUIPMENT FOR ARMED FORCES, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH TURKEY, AND SUBSEQUENT GREEK RETURN TO NATO. SEVERAL PAPERS BRAND GAROUFALIAS' MOVEMENT AS CRYPTO-JUNTIST, AND CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE READY TO PLACE DIFFICULTIES IN PATH OF NEW PARTY.END SUMMARY.

2. GAROUFALIAS INTERVIEW SPLASHED ACROSS FRONTPAGE OCTOBER 13 ELEFTEROS COSMOS WHICH HAS BECOME SEMI-OFFICIAL PROMOTER OF NEW PARTY. EX-DEPUTY AND EX-MINISTER GAROUFALIAS SAID HIS PARTY HAD TO BE LAUNCHED BECAUSE NATIONAL IMPASSE OVER CYPRUS CALLS FOR NEW APPROACH; "DANGEROUS LANDSLIDE TOWARD LEFT" HAS PRODUCED JUSTIFIED FEELINGS OF FEAR OVER EROSION OF NATIONAL STATE; AND "INDISCRIMINATE PERSECUTION
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OF GREAT NUMBER OF NATIONALISTS... LACK OF RESTRAINT IN

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ATTACKING PEOPLE'S REPUTATIONS AND THE HUMILIATION OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE SECURITY CORPS" HAVE PRODUCED INDIGNTION THAT IS BETTER EXPRESSED THROUGH THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION (EDE) THAN IN ANTI-NATIONALIST POLITICAL SCHEMES.

3. GAROUFALIAS PREDICTED NATIONAL ELECTIONS WILL MAKE HIS PARTY THE ARBITER OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID JULY 24 WAS DAY OF NATIONAL ELEVATION BUT TRANSITION GOVERNMENT (NOTE: HE ATTACKED CARAMANLIS INFERENTIALLY AND NEVER BY NAME) HAD DISSIPATED NATIONAL UNITY THROUGH PERSECUTION AND DIVISION OF NATIONALISTS AND HASTE IN ELECTIONS. HE CLAIMED COMMUNIST PARTY CONCENTRATING ITS EFFORTS ON DISORGANIZING THE ARMED FORCES.

4. INTERVIEW WAS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF GOG HANDLING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. GAROUFALIAS URGED RETURN TO NATO "WHEN AND PROVIDED, ALL ISSUES THAT SEPARATE US FROM TURKEY ARE SETTLED." HE NOTED THESE ISSUES WERE MORE NUMEROUS AND SERIOUS THAN GOG ADMITTED TO GREEK PEOPLE. EVERY AMOUNT SPENT ON MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAS ABSOLUTELY JUSTIFIED IN TERMS OF NATIONAL SURVIVAL. HE REGRETTED THAT GREECE'S NATO WITHDRAWAL HAD GAINED COUNTRY NOTHING DIPLOMATICALLY--FOR WHICH HE BLAMED MAVROS' POOR TIMING AND BLUNDERING--WHILE IMPOSING INCREASED EXPENSE BURDEN FOR EQUIPMENT DERIVED FROM INSUFFICIENT FRENCH SUPPLY. ON EASTERN BLOC RELATIONS, GOVT. WAS NOT IMPROVING BALKAN RELATIONS AS RAPIDLY AS HE FAVORED, AND HE IMPLIED THAT GREECE'S DEELINGS WITH RUSSIA HAD BEEN MARKED BY GULLIBILITY AND LACK OF DIPLOMATIC RESERVE.

5. COSMOS COMPLAINED IN FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL THAT TWO GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NATIONAL TELEVISION SYSTEMS HAD REFUSED ADVERTISEMENT PROMOTING GAROUFALIAS INTERVIEW. MINISTER TO PRIME MINISTER VLACHOS IN HIS BRIEFING OCTOBER 14 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTIES TO CONSIDER "CREATION OF THE PROPER ATMOSHPERE FOR THE ELECTIONS" DID NOT INVITE REPRESENTATIVE OF NDE. ALTHOUGH TECHNICAL REASONS MAY UNDERLIE BOTH DECISIONS AGAINST NEW PARTY, COSMOS CLEARLY SUGGESTED DISCRIMINATION
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WAS RULING MOTIVE. OTHER ATHENS PAPERS ARE NOT SYMPATHETIC TO GAROUFALIAS' POSITION. VRADYNI OBSERVED THAT FACT OF ELECTIONS TAKING PLACE WITHOUT TANKS MORE THAN OUTWEIGHED MINOR COMPLAINTS ABOUT PROCEDURES; AVGHI DESCRIBED NDE AS THE "PARTY OF THE JUNTA"; AND ATHENS NEWS ANNOUNCED IT WOULD NOT RUN ANY NEWS ITEMS ON GAROUFALIAS OR HIS NDE SINCE THEY ONLY SEEK TP PERPETUATE JUNTIST MENTALITY.

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6. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT.
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